

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Applicant notes that the Preliminary Amendment filed on May 31, 2005 was not entered or considered on the merits because it would interfere with prosecution of this application. Applicant respectfully submits the above amendments in place of the non-entered Preliminary Amendment.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-35 were present in the filing of the present application. By way of the Reply to the Restriction Requirement dated March 5, 2003, claims 1-13, 17, 27-30, and 33-35 were withdrawn from consideration. By way of the Reply of September 25, 2003, claims 14, 15, 18-20, 22-24, 26, 31, and 32 were canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 36-39 were added. By way of the Reply to the Restriction Requirement dated of December 5, 2003, non-elected claims except claims 16, 25, 38, and 39 were cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. By way of the Reply of November 1, 2005, claim 40 has been added. By way of this Reply, claims 41 and 42 have been added. Accordingly, claims 16, 25, and 38-42 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 16 and 40-42 are independent. Remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 16.

Claim Amendments

Claims 16 and 40 have been amended in this Reply to clarify the present invention recited. These amendments are fully supported, for example, by Figs. 46(a) and (b) of the Drawings.

Claims 41 and 42 have been added in this Reply. These amendments are fully supported for example, by Fig. 52 of the Drawings.

No new matter has been added.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 102

Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,930,055 (“Eisenberg et al.”). For the reasons set forth below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 16, as amended, recites a structure of an optical component. As shown in, for example, Figs. 46(a) and (b), the optical component of the present invention has a transparent mold resin 13, in which a light-reflecting portion 20 is insert-molded. A direct emission region 18 is formed at a center of a total reflection region 19, which is formed on a front surface of the mold resin 13, and a recess as an optical element portion 74 is formed on a back surface of the mold resin 13. The direct emission region 18 may be formed in a convex lens shape. A light-emitting element 12 is supposed to be disposed in the recess. Thus, paraxial light from the light-emitting element 12 passes through the direct emission region 19 directly. While, marginal light is reflected by the total reflection region 19 and is incident on the light-reflecting portion 20

whereby a traveling direction of the light is unified, and, thereafter, the reflected light passes through the total reflection region 19. See Paragraphs 0154 through 0156 of the Specification. In view of the above, claim 16 include a limitation of “said direct emission region passes incident light directly passing through said recess.”

Eisenberg et al., in contrast, fails to show or suggest at least the above limitation as recited in claim 16. Eisenberg et al. merely discloses an electromagnetic radiation lens apparatus using total reflection. Specifically, the apparatus 210 shown in Fig. 8 has a flat surface 212, a convex surface 214, and concave surface 218. The flat surface 212 has a portion 221, on which a reflective surface 222 is formed, at the center thereof, and thereby an annular window 226 is formed. Rays of electromagnetic radiation emitted from a source 300 pass through the concave surface 218, and, while some of the rays is reflected by the reflective surface 222, some of the rays is reflected by the annular window 226 in a manner of total reflection because the rays traveling to the annular window 226 enters beyond a critical angle. The rays reflected by the reflective surface 222 and the annular window 226 are transmitted through the annular window 22. It is noted that the reflective surface 222 never passes the rays from the source 300 therethrough. Thus, Eisenberg et al. fails to show or suggest at least the direct emission region as recited in claim 16.

In view of the above, Eisenberg et al. fails to show or suggest the present invention as recited in claim 16. Thus, claim 16 is patentable over Eisenberg et al. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Further, claims 41 and 42 have been added. These claims include similar limitations to claim 16, respectively. Thus, claims 41 and 42 are patentable Eisenberg et al. Accordingly, entry and allowance of claims 41 and 42 are respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 103

Claim 40

Claim 40 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as unpatentable over Eisenberg et al. For the reasons set forth below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 40, as amended, includes a limitation of “said direct emission region passes incident light directly passing through said recess.”

In contrast to the claimed invention, as mentioned above, Eisenberg et al. fails to show or suggest the direct emission region as recited in claim 40.

In view of above, Eisenberg et al. fails to show or suggest the present invention as recited in claim 40. Thus, the claim 40 is patentable over Eisenberg et al. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 25 and 39

Claims 25 and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as unpatentable over Eisenberg et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,485,317 (“Perissinotto et al”). Claims 25 and 39 depend from claim 16. As mentioned above, in view of lack of the disclosure of the direct emission region, Eisenberg et al. does not anticipate or render claim 16 obvious. Thus, claim 16 is patentable over Eisenberg et al. Depending claims are patentable for at

least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 38

Claim 38 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as unpatentable over Eisenberg et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,264,347 (“Godbillon et al”). Claim 38 depends from claim 16. As mentioned above, in view of lack of disclosure of the direct emission region, Eisenberg et al. does not anticipate or render claim 16 obvious. Thus, claim 16 is patentable over Eisenberg et al. Depending claim is patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claims 41 and 42

Claims 41 and 42 have been added. Independent claims 41 and 42 each include a limitation of “said direct emission region passes incident light directly passing through said recess.”

In contrast to the claimed invention, as mentioned above, Eisenberg et al. fails to show or suggest the direct emission region as recited in claim 40.

In view of above, Eisenberg et al. fails to show or suggest the present invention as recited in claims 41 and 42. Thus, claims 41 and 42 are patentable over Eisenberg et al. Accordingly, entry and allowance of claims 41 and 42 are respectfully requested.

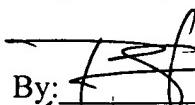
Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other

issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 15115.005001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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